

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 6439

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, XF, BE

SUBJECT: DAVIGNON ON POMPIDOU'S SUMMIT INITIATIVE

REF: BRUSSELS 6408

1. SUMMARY: IN HIGHLY RESTRICTED PRESS BACKGROUNDER NOVEMBER 9 AT WHICH HE ALSO DISCUSSED EC-NINE MID-EAST DECLARATION AND OIL SITUATION (REFTEL), POLITICAL DIRECTOR DAVIGNON EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS ABOUT INSTITUTIONALIZING SUMMITS AND AFFECT THIS MIGHT HAVE ON EC DEVELOPMENT. AS WITH INFORMATION IN REFTEL, ANY INTIMATION THAT USG IS APPRISED OF DAVIGNON'S REMARKS WOULD SERIOUSLY COMPROMISE SOURCE.

2. DAVIGNON SAID POMPIDOU'S SUMMIT PROPOSAL ENVISIONED REGULAR MEETINGS, IMPROVED POLITICAL COOPERATION, AND ACCEPTANCE THAT ECONOMIC AND FINANCE MINISTERS WORK ON THE PROBLEMS OF INFLATION AND MONETARY REFORM. HE WARNED, HOWEVER, THAT DANISH PRIME MINISTER JORGENSEN'S CLAIM THAT THE NEXT SUMMIT WOULD ENSURE ACHEIVEMENT OF THAT WHICH WAS AGREED IN PARIS SUMMIT WAS "HASTY". DAVIGNON SAID THAT BELGIUM AGREED TO AN EXCEPTIONAL
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SUMMIT BECAUSE IT WAS JUSTIFIED BY EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

BELGIUM IS NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT REGULAR SUMMITS WHICH, BECUASE THEY ARE OFTEN SEEN AS "FIRING THE LAST BULLET", COULD HAMPER WORK DONE BY THE COMMISSION AND WITHIN THE COMMUNITY ITSELF. THERE WOULD BE NO SUMMITS, HE SAID, SEPARATE FROM THOSE WITHIN THE PRESENT CONTEXT OF POLITICAL COOPERATION. PROCEDURES FOR POLITICAL COOPERATION WERE NOT SATISFACTORY, HOWEVER, THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD DISCUSS THE PROBLEM NOVEMBER 20.

3. TO SAY THAT BELGIUM WAS LUKE WARM TO SUMMITS THAT BROUGHT TOGETHER ONLY CHEIFS OF STATE OR HEADS OF GOVERNMENT WOULD BE THE UNDERSTATEMENT OF THE YEAR, DAVIGONON SAID. COOPERATION IS EQUITABLE FOR SMALL COUNTRIES ONLY WHEN INTITUTIONALIZED, AS IN THE CASE OF THE MINISTERS IN COUNCIL, THERE BEING LESS GENIUNE CONTACT IN INTERGOVERNMENTAL SESSIONS AND STILL LESS WHEN CHIEFS OF STATE OR HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEET. FOREIGN MINISTERS JOBERT AND VAN ELSLANDE, HE INDICATED, COULD CONFRONT EACH OTHER IN EC COUNCILS IN WAYS THAT PRIME MINISTER LEBURTON AND PRESIDENT POMPIDOU COULD NOT. FRENCH, BRITISH AND GERMAN HEADS OF GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, WERE APPOINTED AND THEN SELECTED MINISTERS ANSWERABLE TO THEM. THE CONSITUIONAL SITUATION IN BELGIUM AND IN OTHER SMALL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WAS DIFFERENT AND THEIR HEADS OF GOVERNMENT COULD NOT SPEAK FOR THEIR GOVERNMENTS IN THE SAME WAY. THE COMING SUMMIT WOULD HAVE TO INDICATE VERY CLEARLY TO PUBLIC OPINION WHAT HAD BEEN DECIDED AND WHAT FURTHER PROGRESS IS TO BE BEFORE DECIDING HOW TO PROCEED WITH NEXT STEPS. STRAUSZ-HUPE

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